

It was six yards square, and in its front wall there was an opening about four feet from the ground. Through this the inhabitants poured their house refuse until the manure pit could hold no more, and, as it was seldom emptied, the street around became an unsightly and dangerous nuisance.

About the year 1830 much angry feeling began to prevail between the farmers and labourers on wage grievances, for farmers began to purchase machinery of a labour saving nature. This produced a wide feeling of alarm and discontent, for the labourers were united in their opposition to the introduction of agricultural machinery in the villages, as calculated to diminish their labour and wages. This feeling of discontent was not confined to this neighbourhood alone, but extended over a large district of the Midlands and the west of England. Passions and ill-feelings became more inflamed between masters and men. The labourers arranged midnight meetings to form schemes of vengeance against their employers. At last active deeds of lawlessness commenced. Many machines were found broken to pieces, cattle were badly maimed, incendiary fires became more frequent, and the wildest disorder reigned in our district. Valuable machinery was broken to pieces, carried away, and at night burnt in great heaps. The authorities and the friends of law were fully aroused for defence. The county magistrates and many others were in the saddle the greater part of the night, ready to read the riot act on any emergency. In these days there was no police force. Troops of cavalry were being sent into all the affected districts. A troop of the 10th Hussars from Birmingham galloped through Neithrop into a field just beyond where Neithrop Church now stands. They galloped through the fire, scattering it all over the field. Many of the rioters received blows from the swords of the soldiers, but the scabbard had not been taken off the blade. These men fell thinking in their fright that they had been wounded, whilst many of the rioters fell from the trees thinking they were shot as the Hussars fired a volley of blank cartridges high in the air. At this time there were no less than 800 persons waiting remand in the counties of Wilts and Gloucester alone, many of them confined in tithe barns and other queer places for the want of adequate accommodation in the prisons. These angry feelings between the farmers and the labourers slowly and gradually improved, but it was a work of considerable time. The thrashing machine again took its place in the economy of labour, and the flail is heard no more in our village barns. As bread became very cheap, allotments of land have been given to the cottager, almost a free education has been given to the village children. A deeper interest be-